

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of zooming in/out a current display of a visualization of resources, each said resource having zero or more attributes, and each resource being a resource of interest if it has at least one attribute that matches predetermined criteria, comprising:

computing a future display area zoomed in/out from said current display by an

initial factor;

positioning said future display area over said visualization to include the largest possible number of resources of interest; and

replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising, following positioning said future display area, further zooming in/out said future display area until resources of interest are proximate at least two edges of said future display area.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said initial factor is in the range from about 115% to about 130% for a zoom in, and in the range from about 70% to about 85% for a zoom out.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said initial factor is about 120% for a zoom in, and about 80% for a zoom out.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said initial factor is predetermined.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said initial factor is specified by a user.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said resources of interest are visually distinguished in said current display.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said resources of interest are visually distinguished by displaying indicia of interest associated with said resources.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein said attributes that match predetermined criteria are predetermined.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein said attributes that match predetermined criteria are selected by a user.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein said resources of interest have different degrees of priority, wherein at least one said resource of interest has a higher priority than at least one other resource of interest.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein positioning said future display area to include the largest possible number of resources of interest comprises positioning said future display area to include the largest possible number of resources having said higher priority.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein, if said future display area cannot include more than one resource of interest, positioning said future display area to include the largest possible number of resources of interest comprises positioning said future display area such that a single resource of interest is centered in said future display area.

14. A method of zooming in a current display of a visualization of resources, each said resource having zero or more attributes, and each resource being a resource of interest if it has at least one attribute that matches predetermined criteria, comprising:
 - computing a future display area zoomed in from said current display by an initial factor;
 - positioning said future display area over said visualization to encompass the largest possible number of resources of interest;
 - if the largest possible number of resources of interest that said future display area can encompass is one, positioning said future display area such that said one resource of interest is centered in said future display area; and
 - replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.
15. The method of claim 17 further comprising, prior to replacing said current display:
 - if said largest possible number of resources of interest that said future display area can encompass is at least two, further zooming and positioning said future display area such that a resource of interest is proximate at least two edges of said future display area.

16. A computer system, comprising:
 - a display device;
 - memory; and
 - a processor operatively connected to said display device and said memory, for executing code operative to produce a current display on said display device depicting a visualization of resources, each said resource having zero or more attributes, and each said resource being a resource of interest if it has at least one attribute that matches predetermined criteria, said processor operative to perform the steps of:
 - computing a future display area zoomed in/out from said current display by an initial factor;
 - positioning said future display area over said visualization to include the largest possible number of resources of interest; and
 - replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.
17. The computer system of claim 16 wherein said processor further performs the step of, prior to replacing said current display, further zooming and positioning said future display area such that a resource of interest is proximate at least two edges of said future display area.

18. A computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable process steps for zooming in/out a current display of a visualization of resources, each said resource having zero or more attributes, and each said resource being a resource of interest if it has at least one attribute that matches predetermined criteria, said computer-executable process steps causing a computer to perform the steps of:

computing a future display area zoomed in/out from said current display

by an initial factor;

positioning said future display area over said visualization to include the

largest possible number of resource of interest; and

replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, said computer-executable process steps further causing a computer to perform the step of, prior to replacing said current display, further zooming and positioning said future display area such that a resource of interest is proximate at least two edges of said future display area.